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**The Times-Dispatch**

Business Office.....116 E. Main Street  
South Richmond.....1020 Hull Street  
Petersburg Bureau.....109 N. E. Main Street  
Lynchburg Bureau.....215 Eighth Street

**BY MAIL.** One year Three One  
Year, Post Paid  
Daily with Sunday.....\$5.00 12.00 1.00 30  
Daily without Sunday.....4.00 2.00 1.00 30  
Sunday edition only.....2.00 1.00 50 30  
Weekly (Wednesday).....1.00 50 25 30

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg—  
One Week  
Daily with Sunday.....15 cents  
Daily without Sunday.....10 cents  
Sunday only.....4 cents

Entered January 27, 1912, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1912.

**THE TALE OF THREE TUESDAYS.**

Tuesday California expressed its decided preference for Roosevelt for the Republican nomination. The result was expected, for the insurgent wave has not yet subsided there, and the prejudice that hangs over from the Union Pacific fight still operates against any man who is not violently "progressive."

Ohio votes next Tuesday and New Jersey on the Tuesday following. California, Ohio and New Jersey have been regarded in many quarters as the pivotal States of the campaign. The divisions have been resolved into geographical lines. California is for Roosevelt, because of the radical tide which has swept over the Pacific Coast. Wyoming and Montana, part of the Rocky Mountain belt, fall naturally to Taft, who is carrying that group of States. Their compact political organization has something to do with it, and even so ardent a Taft organ as the Boston Herald says that "the Mormon Church is doubtless a factor," an opinion fortified in the views of some by the fact that Utah is strong for Taft. Pinchot's land policy was displeasing in this group, and that, of course, counts against Roosevelt.

East of the Rocky Mountains, the lowland country is Roosevelt's. He swept Minnesota. There he outnumbered Taft and La Follette 3 to 1. Ohio lies in the Mississippi Valley, where Roosevelt's greatest strength has developed. The Buckeye State, too, is voting by popular primaries, which have worked decidedly to Roosevelt's advantage. Yet Ohio is Taft's native State. Its vote will be most significant. The Old Guard, including men of such wide range of affiliations as Senator Burton, Boss Cox, Nick Longworth and ex-Senator Charles Dick are with Taft, while Walter Brown and "Mumie" Garfield are whooping it up for Roosevelt.

New Jersey, last of the triad, is thoroughly Eastern in sentiment. In the East, even in direct primaries, the Roosevelt tide has been checked. If Taft should break even in Ohio and carry New Jersey the result will go a long way toward justifying the National Committee in giving Taft the territory committed to him. If Taft carries all in New Jersey and Ohio, the delegates he is getting from Wyoming, Montana, Tennessee and other small States would be of little consequence. Ohio and New Jersey may tell the whole story. They are well worth watching.

**HONOR AMONG CONVICTS.**

Enguarded and unwatched, Bud Parrott, a life-terminer in the Colorado penitentiary, traveled 134 miles the other day to Denver to ask his freedom of the State Pardons Board. He gave his word that he would come back, and he did. He would not break his word of honor; for, as he put it, "there are a hundred life-terminers in the State penitentiary. Were I to betray this confidence, I would injure the chances of every one of them ever to be liberated. Every man in prison wants freedom. I have no right to jeopardize the attainment of that desire by a selfish action to secure my own."

Why did he not take the first train out of the State? He knew that he was not watched; he knew that nobody was on the lookout for him. No barrier lay between him and that liberty of which he had been deprived eleven years. In Nebraska, his mother was dying. He wanted to see her; he would be allowed to go to see her, or that his term would be shortened. In similar cases to his many a man had gone free on the plea of self-defense. The only letter upon him was his word of honor; his only guardian the still, small voice of conscience. Why did he not escape?

Because honor begets honor. Parrott knew that he was trusted—that the great State of Colorado yet had faith in one who had broken her law and received her second most terrible punishment. Then he realized his obligation to his fellow unfortunate—took into account his social obligation to them. Perhaps he received his own record in his mind as he rode along—remembered that he had been faithful, had conducted himself well, had undergone complete reformation. He recalled, no doubt, that he had never broken his word and that he had proved his trustworthiness by the fact that he had been a nightwatchman in the convict camp and had carried arms with which he might easily have shot his way out to freedom.

Is it any wonder that the Pardons Board allowed him to go home to see his mother and reduced his life term to thirty days? They said that "a prisoner who can be trusted to travel 134 miles to Denver, plead his case and return on an out-of-the-way camp on the Poudre River without a thought of

attempting flight can be trusted to go among people." In Colorado they trust the convicts and send them to work on the roads in remote places far from the seats of law and order. They put these unfortunate on their honor, and few ever betray the confidence. Colorado convicts are vigorous and healthy, working under sunny skies to build great highways for the betterment of the State. They are treated as men, not as caged creatures. They are not cooped up in dismal and unsanitary shops to compete with labor. The State almost without exception reclaims them and reforms them by humaneness into good, law-abiding and useful citizens. The Colorado policy ought to be tried everywhere.

**EDUCATING FOR EFFICIENCY.**

Four months ago a Richmond apprentice plumber was getting \$1.50 a day. He could not go higher, because he could not learn skilled work while on the job, for the reason that he might spoil it. For help he went to the Virginia Mechanics' Institute for a four-months' course, and now he is drawing \$2.75. Education for him has meant greater earning power. The night schooling helped him to bridge the chasm.

Equipping men to be more efficient is the business of Richmond's night school of technology, which closes another year to-night. Five hundred and forty-one boys and men in the past year were enlisted in this nocturnal endeavor to enlarge their usefulness and multiply their money-making capacity. Twenty-five thousand three hundred and fifty-three classes were attended, and an attendance percentage of 84.3 was maintained, which is a far better attendance record than most of our colleges and universities can boast. The fellow who works hard all day and goes to night school to learn how to make his work count for more isn't of the class-cutting genus, and his interest in mathematics is higher than that of the academic lowbrow who spends weeks trying to figure out the trigonometry of the sphinx.

Men learn vocations at the Virginia Mechanics' Institute, instead of learning a lot of unprofitable and indolent vocations. Plumbing, patterning, cabinet making, telegraphy, automobile mechanics, machine shop work and blacksmithing are the subjects taught at this night school. Mathematics, drawing, chemistry, physics, electricity, English and bookkeeping are also taught. Visitors at the closing exercises of the institute to-night will see, for example, a bath-room, kitchen range and hot water system made by the plumbing class, furniture made by the students, and other products of practical education.

The Virginia Mechanics' Institute is one of the splendid educational assets of Richmond. It is maintained by the city and offers practically free instruction to boys and men who want to better equip themselves for their work. It is under able superintendence, and is more and more satisfying a real need of the community. If it were not for the institute a great number of deserving and ambitious men would be tied down by the lack of opportunity to better their lot, but the institute gives the chance. It fits a man for his job, and that and nothing less than that every educational plant ought to do. A good many don't.

**RING YOUR BELL TO-DAY.**

"Ring in the larger heart, the kinder hand," urged Tennyson, and that is the appeal made to the people of Richmond to-day. For the benefit of the Home for Incubables, bells will be sold to-day, and everybody in Richmond ought to buy one and ring out glad and cheering tidings to the hopelessly ill people, who watch and wait day in and day out for the inevitable. This great-hearted charity is wholly dependent upon the contributions of the people of this city, and surely there is none other more worthy of generous and liberal response. Thirty-one incubables are now in the Home, and they, helpless and stricken, must rely upon our kind-hearted citizens. What a wealth we have who can contribute to these sufferers! We have hope and life and health and strength; we have work and joy and power and contentment; we may walk out under the glorious skies of May and bear the burden and share the benefits of the world. For all these things our hearts are glad. Is it not well for us to help these who have none of these things, and in such a noble acknowledgment our immense obligation to him who gives us the matchless wealth of life and health?

**GRACEFUL AND GENEROUS.**

Flowers for Hollywood graves will be transported free of charge by the express companies from any point within a radius of fifty miles of Richmond. They should be addressed to the Hollywood Memorial Association. This generous action of the express companies will be widely appreciated, for there are hundreds near the former Confederate capital who will avail themselves of this opportunity to send their symbols of everlasting remembrance to deck the graves of the great and gallant ones whose last resting place is within the sacred pall of Hollywood. Here and there in the outlying territory there are those to whom May 29 is an anniversary of poignant sorrow and irreparable loss—sisters grown gray whose brothers fought for their country under the red flag of the Confederacy; daughters whose fathers surrendered only to death; wives whose husbands were the Gray, and descendants whose proudest heritage is the memory of one who marched with "Marse Robert." Some there are who, fifty years ago, just at this season, were kissing loved ones good-by as they left for the front, many of them never to return, and those who were left behind will, from

country and village, send their wreaths of unforgetting love.

The express companies have made it possible for many to send tributes who otherwise could not have sent them. There is something altogether graceful and appropriate in such a kindly action, for it means that the carriers are animated by a fine sentiment—they will not treat commercially the flowers which a loving people would strew above the graves of their honored dead. Indeed, such generosity will increase the sweet and glorious shroud that the morning star of memory makes to blossom.

**SWAT THE SHYSTERS.**

"Reach" at once dignified and effective was exhibited by Ashton Starke in his pummeling of a certain class of the candidates for the Administrative Board at the Chamber of Commerce smoker. Such bold plucking of masks from masqueraders has already had its effect. Yesterday there was much agreeing and approving on the part of long flimflammed people, who have about decided that they will no longer be bluffed by the shill-game of the fakery in city politics. The belief is spreading rapidly that many candidates are seeking to take advantage of the supposed apathy of the people and sneak into office, but the trouble is that the people are rubbing their eyes and getting ready to get up and get into the game themselves.

The situation is just as Mr. Starke pictured it. "Political mountebanks and shysters" are posing as the friends of the workmen, when a good day's work would give them heart failure; tricksters and pensioners are waddling to the trough, just like the porcine tribe, who never have enough, no matter how much they have had; "vultures" are watching for the "meat"; pledged voters are ready to have the harness put on and are ready to be driven.

Personal and political reasons should not control votes in this election, declared Mr. Starke, and he struck thirteen right there. The city's interest should not be traded in paying personal obligations. This is a time when no man should pledge himself, when all should wait until all the candidates are in the field and then consider and select the five best fitted men—"men high enough, broad enough, independent enough, with experience enough, fearless enough, to look beyond pandering to individual whims and what is called 'influence' to that grand old Democratic doctrine—the greatest good for the greatest number."

The shysters, the fakery, the loafers, the pensioners, the boneheads and the sumps who are running for the Administrative Board—all the candidates, of course, must not thus be classified—carry wherever they go the germs of bad government. They dwell in the cesspools of inefficiency and incompetence, and if they light on a city job they contaminate it with inefficiency and incompetence. They would poison the milk of efficiency on which our infant form of government must be fed. They look harmless, but when scrutinized closely have feelers and claws that mean no good for the city. How can we get rid of them?

Swat the shysters!

**CUTTING DOWN THE NATION'S PUBLISHING BILL.**

One of the proposals contained in the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, now before Congress, is to concentrate the duty of responsibility for the distribution of public documents. As it is now, the machinery is duplicated over and over again in the various departments. Enormous sums are paid out because such documents are not handled directly. The printing office sends to the department and the department mails, whereas if the printing office mailed, as it ought to do, the transportation charge from printer to department head would be eliminated. The general policy contemplated would bring about great economy. It would stop the printing of useless matter.

There is an excellent field for reform in the government printing and publishing business. Many documents valueless save to a few are circulated broadcast, resulting in just so much waste. Thousands of useless publications clutter up the storage rooms of the government. Thousands are paid out every year because of reduplication. The hole ought to be stopped up.

Caspar Knoebel, of Philadelphia, said to be the only survivor of the fourteen troopers from the Fourth Michigan Cavalry who captured Jefferson Davis at Irwinville, Ga., May 10, 1865, lately told a New York Tribune correspondent that the old story that the Confederate President masqueraded in women's clothes was an utter falsehood. "Mr. Davis was chilly, and had thrown a shawl about his shoulders," that was all there ever was to it, and yet this trifling incident has been magnified into a monumental mass of mendacity.

Some of the old-timers hereabout who voted for Breckinridge and Lane in 1860 will be interested to know that the Democratic candidate for United States Senator from Oregon is a grandson of the same Joseph Lane who ran for the vice-presidency fifty-two years ago. The Oregonian will probably not fare any better politically than his grandfather.

The book "The Man Roosevelt," by Francis E. Leupp, in which the author says "Roosevelt cherishes an almost morbid horror of doing anything to split his party," was published several years ago. A revised edition should be brought out.

**On the Spur of the Moment**

By Roy K. Moulton

**An Epiphany on the Mule.**

The mule is one of the most interesting of our dumb brutes. It has often been said that he has no pride of ancestry and no hope of posterity and, judging by some of our own and yours, he ought to be mighty glad of it.

Mules are divided into two general classes, optimists and pessimists. The optimistic mule is a thing of beauty and a joy forever and when he lifts his voice in song it can be likened to nothing in this world but Wagner's superbly delightful "Siegfried's Song" rendered on a willing, but squeaking phonograph. I like still reaches of the night. It is needless to say much concerning the pessimistic mule. Most people have met him before, and those who have met him before are much luckier than those who have met him behind.

The mule has been greatly maligned on account of the fact that he has large ears and he cannot deny the soft impeachment. However, he never tells what he hears or adds a little to it to make it sound good. In this he has it on certain human beings several different ways.

Thinking it all over, the mule is not such an undesirable citizen after all, for what he lacks in culture, refinement and education he makes up in minding his own business.

**Our Ideals of Wealth.**

Having a friend who lives on Riverside Drive.

Owning another suit for Sundays.

Having a silk-lined overcoat. (This never happened.)

Being mentioned in the paper as a friend of the trusts.

Having our salary referred to as an "income."

Owning an Angora cat.

Receiving a letter from a gold mine syndicate.

Being asked why we don't buy an automobile.

**According to Uncle Abner.**

There is some question as to whether there are some more town or women artists, but it always seems as though a feller sees more women who paint.

William Tibbitts, our postmaster, has been layin' in Swazey Creek three days tryin' to cook off a mustard plaster which his wife put on his back about two months ago. The post-office has been closed during that time, but he expects to have it open in a day or two so that the regular patrons can get their picnic postcards and mail order catalogs.

Just as soon as a woman says she is a perfect lady you begin to think there is something wrong with her.

The 1915 model automobiles ought to be on the market now in a week or two, the 1914 models having been on sale for about a month.

There are so many people in this world makin' a livin' without working at it that the rest of the folks have to work twice as hard as they ought to.

You kin knock a man's appearance, his relatives, his politics, his business, his singin', his landscape gardenin', or his automobile, but a bonehead is ever foolish enough to knock a man's religion.

**Experience.**

Experience, they say, conducts a fool.

Which is designed to educate the fool, but as we all attend, it's plain to see "This right to say, 'What fools these mortals be.'"

When very young to aviate I learned; Experience taught me. Advice I never spurned.

I beat Wright brothers long ago a year.

'Twas when I monkeyed with a mule's hind leg.

Since then I've had no wild desire to fly.

Let others seek to aviate, not I.

Experience one spring day filled me full.

Of knowledge on the foibles of the bull.

Attired quite gaily in a bright red shirt.

I made right there my record-breaking spurt.

He chased me 'round the lot three times to gore.

And then he chased me 'round fifteen times more.

Advice I had received that very spring in fulsome doses on that selfsame thing.

Experience since then I've reckoned by.

Let others win the Marathon, not I.

One day I got a letter in the mail.

It told how to make money without fail.

In two weeks I could own a city block.

They claim they were digging out the ore.

Pure virgin gold, ten tones a day or more.

The proposition which did look so fair.

Deceived me to be a millionaire.

For a colossal dinner now I sigh.

Let others hope to get rich quick, not I.

**Abbe Martin**

The Color Line in Parks.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Visitors to Richmond are thunder-struck to find that beautiful Monroe Park, the only park in the heart of the city and the first to which sight-seers go, is the lounging-place almost exclusively of negroes. The location of Monroe Park is one of the most fashionable parts of the city; its easy access to thousands of white people and the need of such a park for white people, makes it all the more imperative that some restriction should be placed upon the negroes.

**Abbe Martin**

Can you tell me the story of St. Isidore and the feeding of the pilgrims? I have heard that he was a saint, but I don't know the story.

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**THEY THOUGHT HE WAS CRAZY.**

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.)

**Traction Manager—"You conductors have got to be polite to passengers hereafter."**

**Conductor Bill—"Sir, may I trouble you for your fare, please?"**

**"Madam, at what street intersection may I have the honor of halting the car for you?"**

**"What's the matter? These people don't seem to be used to politeness."**

**QUERIES & ANSWERS**

**Parliamentary.**

A makes a motion, which is seconded by B. C offers an amendment. Is it necessary before the amendment is put that A accept it? A READER.

**Political.**

Please state the salary of the Governor of Virginia and members of the United States Senate and House. Are any of the coins listed herewith of any value? BEITIE JONES.

\$5,000, \$7,500, No.

**Old Coins.**

E. W. Hammond, A. S. Muncie, S. H. N. and Cope send lists of coins containing nothing of premium value.

**Who Wrote It.**

Please tell me who wrote "The Chain-bearer" and "Probus; or, Roma in the Third Century?" A. B. C.

Feminine Cooper, William Ware.

**Saint Isidore.**

Can you tell me the story of St. Isidore and the feeding of the pilgrims? I have heard that he was a saint, but I don't know the story.

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**LABOR AGE LIMIT LEFT AT THIRTEEN**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Raleigh, N. C., May 15.—At a conference of the North Carolina Child Labor Commission and a number of cotton manufacturers of the State here, continuing until after midnight, it was agreed to compromise differences as to what changes the 1913 Legislature should make in the labor law and seek changes only that shall prohibit women and girls and children under sixteen from working at night, provide efficient nonpolitical factory inspection and leave the age limit as at present, thirteen years, for day labor unless four months schooling is shown. Manufacturers participating in the conference were: W. A. Erwin, D. Y. Cooper, Caesar Cone, W. Enslin, R. L. Steele, Frank Borden, W. H. Wilkerson and W. B. Coe.

Representing the Child Labor Commission were: C. H. Fox, Bishop Robert Strange, Bishop J. B. Chesley, R. S. Carr, Jr., Dr. J. I. Froust, E. C. Brooks, Dr. Fred Rose, Dr. Fred Sterne and W. H. Swift.

**CHARTERS GRANTED**

The Appalachian School Improvement Foundation, Emory, Va., J. P. McConnell, president; J. R. Hunter, secretary and treasurer, Emory, Va.; H. E. Widener, Abingdon. To promote and improve the condition of the public schools.

John W. Burke, Jr., & Co., Inc., Norfolk, Va., merchandise brokers, \$1,000 to \$5,000. L. W. Burke, vice-president; E. H. Hinkle, secretary and treasurer, all of Norfolk.

The Band Theatre Company, Inc., Charlottesville, Va., \$100 to \$5,000. Jacob Jaeger, president; Henry Rubin, vice-president; L. R. Ruskey, secretary; E. L. Johnson, treasurer; all of Charlottesville, Va. Amusement business.

**LAND CLAIMED BY GOVERNMENT**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Alexandria, Va., May 15.—The United States government will take the initiative in obtaining ownership to the reclaimed land on the river front, in the southeastern section of the city, according to a statement made to-day by local attorneys. They were informed by the Attorney-General that this would be done. The attorneys who were thus informed represent the Southern Railway Company and the estate of the late Park Avenue. This land was recently reclaimed by the government in dredging out the Alexandria harbor, and is very fertile soil, regarded now as being the best on the river front. It is also well adapted as a manufacturing site.

According to the program mapped out by the government, the case will be tried in Washington, and all the expenses incident to the suit will be borne by the government. The government proposes to lease the land pending the litigation, and hold the funds until the ownership is finally determined.

**TWO ARE KILLED IN SOUTHERN WRECK**

Charlotte, N. C., May 16.—Engineer E. P. Smith and an unknown negro girl were killed and three others injured when Southern Railway passenger train No. 11, running between Salisbury and Asheville, was wrecked near Connally Springs shortly after noon to-day. The injured include G. N. Buckner, baggage master, and John Blackburn, a negro fireman. The accident is attributed to a split switch.

**IMPROVE CHURCH**

Trustees of Seventh Street Christian May Borrow \$23,000.

An order was entered yesterday by Judge R. Carter Scott in the City Circuit Court appointing H. Cabell Tabb, C. Archibald Cary, O. A. Hawkins, Julian P. Thomas and W. L. Snyder, trustees of the Seventh Street Christian Church, and authorizing the trustees to borrow a sum not exceeding \$23,000 for improvements to the church property. The loan to be secured on the church itself and the adjoining residence, known as 607 East Grace Street. It is understood that extensive alterations and improvements are in contemplation, both to the church and to the parish house adjoining.

**NATIONAL STATE AND CITY BANK**

RICHMOND, VA.

**3% ON SAVINGS 3%**

**Our Women Customers**

The larger number of women in Richmond and vicinity who patronize this bank is evidence that they appreciate the many courtesies extended to them, as well as the prompt and efficient manner in which their accounts are handled.

Besides receiving household accounts subject to check in any amount, we pay 3 per cent. compound interest on savings deposits and rent Safe Deposit Boxes for the protection of valuables at \$3.00 and upwards per year.

**UNDER BOTH U.S. GOV'T & STATE SUPERVISION**